

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

WILUS INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
TECHNOLOGY INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

HP INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:24-cv-00752-JRG

Lead Case

WILUS INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
TECHNOLOGY INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

HP INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:24-cv-00764-JRG

**COUNTERCLAIM DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO
DISMISS HP INC.'S COUNTERCLAIMS 1-6**

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I. INTRODUCTION

HP's counterclaims seek unprecedented relief that no U.S. court has ever granted, and that is beyond the jurisdiction of any U.S. court to provide. Under the guise of a contract claim against Sisvel—neither a plaintiff nor a party to the alleged contract—HP asks this Court to set a “global FRAND licensing rate” that would be applicable to hundreds of U.S. patents not asserted in this action, over a thousand non-U.S. patents, and even patents owned by third parties who simply belong to the patent pool administered by Sisvel. No U.S. court has entered into such an expansive exercise without the explicit consent of all parties (patent owner(s) and licensee), and it is unclear whether a “global FRAND licensing rate” determined by this Court would even be enforceable against HP (licensee) let alone Wilus (patent owner), Sisvel (patent pool operator), and other non-party patent owners.

HP's first six counterclaims against plaintiff Wilus and newly added Sisvel fail as a matter of law and should be dismissed. HP claims that Wilus breached its FRAND commitments by initiating litigation regarding patents directed to the IEEE Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) standard, while claiming Sisvel is liable (and properly a party) as Wilus's “licensing manager.” HP's counterclaims for breach of contract, breach of the duty of good faith, and a declaratory judgment for a “global FRAND licensing rate” improperly seek remedies well beyond the alleged FRAND violations concerning the eight patents asserted by Wilus against HP in these cases. HP's definition of “Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs” impermissibly encompasses (1) foreign patents, (2) patents owned by third parties, and (3) Wilus U.S. patents not asserted in this action. Federal Circuit precedent makes clear that U.S. district courts lack jurisdiction over claims relating to foreign patents, and there is no justiciable case or controversy with respect to non-party patents and patents not asserted here.

The claims against Sisvel fail for another reason: Sisvel is not a party to any alleged IEEE contract. Sisvel cannot be liable for any alleged breach of Wilus's purported FRAND commitments even if a "licensing manager."

As to the discretionary declaratory judgment claims, even putting aside the legal deficiencies, the Court should exercise its broad discretion to decline jurisdiction. District courts have set global FRAND rates only when all parties have expressly consented to such an intensive determination—a key element that is missing in HP's instant request. Additionally, any global rate set by the Court would be unenforceable at least as to foreign Wilus-owned patents and all patents (U.S. or foreign) owned by non-party members of Sisvel's patent pool. Finally, HP has not expressly agreed to take the necessary license to the "Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs" under the Court-determined FRAND terms. HP is requesting the Court to engage in the complex (advisory) task of determining a FRAND rate, with no guarantee that it will actually resolve the parties' disputes over licensing and infringement, particularly concerning patents not asserted in this case.

II. BACKGROUND

Wilus Institute of Standards and Technology Inc. ("Wilus") filed patent infringement complaints against HP Inc. ("HP") and various other defendants in this Court on September 2024. *See* Dkt. 13. The two cases against HP are Lead Case No. 2:24-cv-00752 and Case No. 2:24-cv-00764. Wilus's eight asserted patents generally relate to wireless communications, and the accused products are HP Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) enabled devices.

On December 13, 2024, HP answered and filed counterclaims against Wilus and non-party Sisvel International S.A. ("Sisvel"). Dkt. 33, 39.¹ HP alleges that Sisvel is a licensing manager of certain patents related to the IEEE Wi-Fi 6 standard, and that Sisvel negotiates patent licenses on

¹ HP's counterclaims are substantially identical in both the -752 and -764 cases.

behalf of Wilus and other members of a “Wi-Fi 6 patent pool.” Dkt. 33 ¶¶ 8, 34, 50. According to HP, these lawsuits involve patents that Sisvel and Wilus have asserted are essential to practicing the IEEE’s Wi-Fi 6 standard (HP does not admit they are essential), and HP alleges that Wilus and Sisvel each had a contractual obligation to license the patents on FRAND terms. *Id.* ¶¶ 15–35. HP alleges that Wilus and Sisvel breached their FRAND obligations by refusing to offer HP a license on FRAND terms. *Id.* ¶¶ 36–75. HP also requests a declaratory judgment for a “global” FRAND rate for the Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs. *Id.* ¶¶ 90, 102. These counterclaims should be dismissed.

III. LEGAL STANDARD

A. Motion to Dismiss Under Rule 12(b)(6)

A complaint must include “a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). A court can dismiss a complaint that fails to meet this standard. Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). To survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must state facts sufficient to render a claim plausible on its face. *Thompson v. City of Waco*, 764 F.3d 500, 502 (5th Cir. 2014) (quoting *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). “A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). This requires more than a “sheer possibility” the claims are true. *Id.* While the court must accept well-pleaded facts as true, it is not required to accept legal conclusions as true. *Id.*

B. The Declaratory Judgment Act

The Declaratory Judgment Act provides that “[i]n a case of actual controversy within its jurisdiction . . . any court of the United States . . . may declare the rights and other legal relations of any interested party seeking such declaration, whether or not further relief is or could be sought.” *Optis Wireless Tech., LLC v. Apple Inc.*, No. 2:19-CV-00066-JRG, 2020 WL 999463, at *2 (E.D.

Tex. Mar. 2, 2020) (citing *MedImmune, Inc. v. Genentech, Inc.*, 549 U.S. 118, 126 (2007); 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a)). It is a matter for the district court’s “unique and substantial discretion” whether to decide a declaratory judgment action. *Reifer v. Westport Ins. Corp.*, 751 F.3d 129, 139 (3d Cir. 2014); *see also Commc’ns Test Design, Inc. v. Contec, LLC*, 952 F.3d 1356, 1361–62 (Fed. Cir. 2020). In other words, “the Declaratory Judgment Act gives the court a choice, not a command.” *Mission Ins. Co. v. Puritan Fashions Corp.*, 706 F.2d 599, 601 (5th Cir. 1983).

Determining whether to entertain a declaratory judgment action involves a three-step inquiry: (1) “whether an ‘actual controversy’ exists between the parties” in the case; (2) whether the court has authority to grant declaratory relief; and (3) whether “to exercise its broad discretion to decide or dismiss a declaratory judgment action.” *Optis*, 2020 WL 999463, at *2.

IV. ARGUMENT

A. Counterclaims 1 and 2 (Breach of Contract re IEEE Policy) Fail as a Matter of Law and Should Be Dismissed

HP’s counterclaims 1 and 2 allege that Wilus and Sisvel have each separately “breached [their] obligations to the IEEE, to HP, and to companies like HP by refusing to offer HP a license to the Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs on FRAND terms and conditions.” Dkt. 33 ¶¶ 43, 55. Critically, HP defines the “Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs” as “*all Wi-Fi 6 patents* that are part of the *Sisvel* [i.e., not just *Wilus*] Wi-Fi 6 patent pool.” *Id.* ¶ 19 (emphasis added). These counterclaims thus overreach by going well beyond the eight patents asserted by *Wilus* against *HP* in these cases, as the “Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs,” by definition, include (1) foreign patents not assertable in U.S. courts, (2) patents owned by third parties, and (3) and *Wilus*’s U.S. patents not asserted in this action.

1. This Court Lacks Subject Matter Jurisdiction Over Counterclaims 1 and 2 Because They Involve Foreign Patents

This Court, relying on Federal Circuit precedent, has recognized on multiple occasions that it lacks subject matter jurisdiction over foreign patents. In *Optis Wireless Tech., LLC v. Apple Inc.*,

No. 2:19-CV-00066-JRG, 2020 WL 999463 (E.D. Tex. Mar. 2, 2020), plaintiffs sought a declaratory judgment regarding their FRAND obligations with respect to standards essential patents. *Id.* at *1. The Court granted Apple’s motion to dismiss because the claim implicated plaintiffs’ obligations with respect to foreign patents, explaining “‘it is almost always an abuse of discretion’ to assume jurisdiction ‘over a foreign patent infringement claim’ and that this reasoning should apply equally to the hypothetical breach of a FRAND contract.” *Id.* at *3 (citing *Voda v. Cordis Corp.*, 476 F.3d 887, 902 (Fed. Cir. 2007); *Optis Wireless Tech., LLC v. Huawei Techs. Co.*, No. 2:17-cv-00123-JRG-RSP, 2018 WL 3375192 (E.D. Tex. July 11, 2018)). “[C]laims asking the Court to pass upon foreign obligations under foreign laws related to foreign patents are best left to the courts of those foreign countries.” *Id.* The same reasoning applies here. The “Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs” include foreign patents, and thus HP’s breach of contract claims improperly seek an adjudication of Wilus’s FRAND obligations with respect to such foreign patents either through Wilus or Sisvel.

Nor would these claims be salvaged if limited to U.S. patents owned by Wilus. In *Optis*, after a bench trial to evaluate any evidence of negotiations over U.S.-only patents (there was none), the Court further concluded that Optis had failed to offer a license to only its U.S. patents and therefore dismissed the remainder of the claim. *Optis*, 2021 WL 2349343, at *2. Here, HP has not alleged—because it cannot—that there was either an offer or negotiations concerning a license that was limited to only U.S. patents owned by Wilus that also included patents not asserted in this action. Accordingly, HP has failed to allege a breach of FRAND obligations that includes patents not asserted in these actions but does not also require an adjudication of non-U.S. patent rights. Counterclaims 1 and 2 should thus be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction for this reason alone.

2. Counterclaims 1 and 2 Fail to State a Claim for Breach of Contract with Respect to Non-party Patents

HP acknowledges that the “Sisvel Wi-Fi 6 patent pool” includes patents owned by numerous non-parties, such as “Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., MediaTek Inc., Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Orange S.A., Panasonic Holdings Corporation, Koninklijke Philips N.V., and SK Telecom Co., Ltd.” Dkt. 33 ¶ 33. HP’s breach of contract claims improperly seek adjudication of rights and obligations pertaining to patents that are owned by these other non-party members of the Sisvel Wi-Fi 6 patent pool. Wilus has no ability, much less a contractual duty, to grant a license to patents it does not own, on FRAND terms or otherwise. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 261. HP’s breach of contract claim against Sisvel is based solely on its status as Wilus’s “licensing manager” and Wilus’s purported “contractual commitments,” and thus fails for the same reasons. *See* Dkt. 33 ¶ 50. Counterclaims 1 and 2 should be dismissed for failure to state a claim for breach of contract with respect to non-party patents.

3. Counterclaims 1 and 2 Fail to State a Claim for Breach of Contract with Respect to Patents Not Asserted Against HP in This Case

Counterclaims 1 and 2 fail for another reason: they encompass patents not asserted against HP in these actions. HP claims that “the patents asserted in this action” are alleged by Wilus and Sisvel to be essential to the Wi-Fi 6 standard, and that they breached their FRAND obligations in bringing this lawsuit as “leverage to gain higher than FRAND rates for the Sisvel Wi-Fi 6 patent pool.” Dkt. 33 ¶¶ 37, 43, 47, 55. However, the “Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs”—the foundation of HP’s breach of contract claims—include patents that are not asserted against HP in litigation. *See id.* ¶ 19. Indeed, aside from the patents-in-suit, HP has not specifically identified any patents that are part of the “Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs” and for which HP was allegedly denied a license on FRAND terms, let alone that basis for such a breach. Counterclaims 1 and 2 should thus be dismissed, as

HP has failed to plead any duty or breach thereof with respect to patents not asserted by Wilus against HP.

4. Counterclaim 2 Fails to State a Claim Because Sisvel Is Not a Party to the Alleged IEEE Contract

Counterclaim 2 is especially deficient because it does not plead that Sisvel owns any of the “Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs,” and also does not plead that Sisvel is a party to the alleged contract between Wilus and the IEEE. Nor has HP pled any facts to support binding Sisvel as non-party to the alleged contract. Indeed, HP’s counterclaims make clear that Wilus, and only Wilus, agreed to license SEPs under FRAND terms. *See, e.g.*, Dkt. 33 ¶¶ 21–25 (referring to the Letters of Licensing Assurance submitted by Wilus, and alleging that “*Wilus* committed to ‘grant a license under reasonable rates,’” that “*Wilus* participated in the standard-setting process,” and that “[t]he IEEE relied on *Wilus*’s FRAND commitments when it allegedly incorporated *Wilus*’s proprietary technology into the Wi-Fi 6 standard”); ¶¶ 29–30 (referring to “*Wilus*’s, and the other members of its patent pool’s, FRAND commitments” and “the contractual obligations *agreed to by Wilus* ... as members of the relevant SSOs”); ¶ 48 (“*Wilus* entered into express and/or implied contracts with the IEEE’s members ... in which *Wilus* agreed, among other things, to abide by the IEEE’s policies and rules”); ¶ 49 (“*Wilus* made this commitment by submitting Letters of Assurance to the IEEE”); ¶ 52 (referring to “*Wilus*’s FRAND licensing promises) (all emphases added).

HP does not even attempt to plead that Sisvel is a party to the alleged contract. Rather, HP pleads that “[b]ecause Sisvel contends that Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs are essential to the Wi-Fi 6 standard, Sisvel is subject to the contractual obligations agreed to by Wilus and its predecessors-in-interest as members of the relevant SSOs.” *Id.* ¶ 30. This fails as a matter of law. Sisvel merely stating that certain patents are SEPs cannot somehow bind Sisvel to a contract to which it is not a party. There is no cognizable legal theory to support such a claim. *See Mayers v. Addison Brown*,

LLC, No. 3:19-CV-3043-S, 2020 WL 7646973, at *2 (N.D. Tex. Dec. 22, 2020) (“a non-party to a contract typically cannot be sued for breach of that contract”); *Core Wireless Licensing S.a.r.l. v. Apple Inc.*, No. 6:12-CV-100-JRG, 2015 WL 4775973, at *3 (E.D. Tex. Aug. 11, 2015) (dismissing claim that Apple was obligated to “negotiate a FRAND royalty in good faith” because there was no *prima facie* case of the existence of a contract); *Randall’s Island Aquatic Leisure, LLC v. City of New York*, 92 A.D.3d 463, 463 (N.Y. App. Div. 2012) (“There can be no breach of contract claim against a non-signatory to the contract.”).

HP also alleges that Sisvel “publicly reaffirmed and acknowledged its FRAND commitments related to the Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs” in a press release, and in a statement on its website that “[a]ll participating patent owners have submitted a negative LoA with respect to the IEEE 2015 updated IPR Policy and/or are committed to license on FRAND terms.” *Id.* ¶¶ 31–32. This also fails. Neither of these unilateral public marketing statements created a binding contract. To the contrary, Sisvel’s alleged statements make clear that it is the “participating patent owners” who are committed to license on FRAND terms. Indeed, it is the patent owners—not Sisvel as the pool administrator—that participated in the IEEE standard setting process.

Finally, HP’s allegation that Sisvel is bound by Wilus’s contractual commitments “[a]s the ‘licensing manager’ of Wilus’s Wi-Fi 6 Patents and a transferee of the right to license those patents” (*id.* ¶ 50) also fails. Even assuming Sisvel is Wilus’s agent as baldly alleged by HP, an agent is not bound to a contract “unless the agent agrees to be personally bound” or the agent “is made a party to the contract by her principal acting on her behalf with actual, implied, or apparent authority.” *DK Joint Venture I v. Weyand*, 649 F.3d 310, 319 (5th Cir. 2011). HP does not even contend that Sisvel is bound as Wilus’s agent (because it is not)—just that it is a manager. Nor are there any factual allegations establishing that Sisvel is Wilus’s agent and that Sisvel either agreed

to be bound by the alleged IEEE contract or granted Wilus authority to bind it to the contract. HP also does not allege that Sisvel is a transferee or assignee of any “Essential Patent Claim,” therefore the quoted IEEE Bylaws in paragraph 29 of the counterclaims are inapplicable. HP alleges only that Wilus granted Sisvel authority to license Wilus’s patents. *See* Dkt. 33 ¶ 50 (alleging that Sisvel is a “transferee of the *right to license* [Wilus’s Wi-Fi 6] patents” (emphasis added)). Even if true, negotiating and granting licenses that include Wilus’s patents does not make Sisvel a party to Wilus’s letters of assurance to the IEEE or otherwise impose contractual liability on Sisvel. Counterclaim 2 should be dismissed because it pertains to a non-party to the alleged contract.

B. Counterclaims 3 and 4 (Breach of Duty of Good Faith) Fail as a Matter of Law and Should Be Dismissed

Counterclaims 3 and 4 for breach of the duty of good faith fail for the reasons discussed above, as “a claim for breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing cannot exist absent a breach of contract.” *Chartis Specialty Ins. Co. v. Tesoro Corp.*, 930 F. Supp. 2d 653, 665 (W.D. Tex. 2013); *see also Randall’s Island*, 92 A.D.3d at 463 (“There can be no claim of breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing without a contract.”).

C. Counterclaims 5 and 6 (Declaratory Judgment for a Global FRAND Licensing Rate) Fail as a Matter of Law and Should Be Dismissed

Counterclaims 5 and 6 represent HP’s greatest overreach, and its most legally erroneous theories. These counterclaims request a declaratory judgment for: “(1) a determination that Wilus [and Sisvel have] not offered a license to the Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs on FRAND terms and conditions; and (2) a determination of what constitutes FRAND terms and conditions for a license to the Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs, with those terms and conditions *being ordered and imposed on the parties.*” Dkt. 33 ¶¶ 90, 102 (emphasis added). These counterclaims fail for the same reasons discussed above: (1) the Court lacks jurisdiction to adjudicate foreign patents; (2) there is no justiciable case or controversy with respect to non-party patents and patents not asserted in this action; and (3)

Sisvel is not bound to any alleged contract with the IEEE. *See Okpalobi v. Foster*, 244 F.3d 405, 424 n.31 (5th Cir. 2001) (the Declaratory Judgment Act “does not provide an additional cause of action with respect to the underlying claim”); *City of Reno v. Netflix, Inc.*, 52 F.4th 874, 878 (9th Cir. 2022) (“the Declaratory Judgment Act does not provide an affirmative cause of action where none otherwise exists”).

Even if HP’s declaratory judgment claims are not deficient as a matter of law, the Court should exercise its wide discretion to decline jurisdiction over these claims, as all parties do not consent and adjudicating these claims would force the Court to engage in a complex rate determination with questionable enforceability. Rather than provide any meaningful relief, any DJ judgment entered by this Court would likely invite more litigation and create more problems than it would solve.

1. The Court Lacks Jurisdiction Over Foreign Patents

U.S. courts do not have authority to adjudicate patents of other sovereign nations. *Voda*, 476 F.3d at 902. In *Optis*, this Court granted the defendant’s motion to dismiss declaratory judgment claims and dismissed “any request to declare the parties’ rights with respect to any foreign patents or under any foreign law.” *Optis*, 2020 WL 999463, at *3, *5 (applying *Voda*); *see also Apple Inc. v. Qualcomm Inc.*, No. 3:17-cv-00108-GPC-MDD, 2017 WL 3966944, at *12 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 7, 2017) (explaining that the court’s adjudication of Qualcomm’s global contractual FRAND commitment to ETSI would not apply to foreign patent claims); *Lotes Co. v. Hon Hai Precision Indus. Co.*, No. C 11-01036 JSW, 2011 WL 13152817, at *4 (N.D. Cal. July 14, 2011) (declining jurisdiction over DJ claims relating to foreign patents).

Here, as in *Optis*, HP requests that this Court determine rights and obligations regarding the “Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs,” which is defined to include “*all Wi-Fi 6 patents* that are part of the

Sisvel Wi-Fi 6 patent pool.” Dkt. 33 ¶ 19. This includes over a thousand foreign patents. Indeed, HP’s DJ claims expressly ask the Court to determine a *global* FRAND licensing rate. Dkt. 33 at pp. 50, 52, 59. The Court thus lacks subject matter jurisdiction over Counterclaims 5 and 6.

2. There Is No Justiciable Case or Controversy with Respect to Non-party Patents and Patents Not Asserted in This Action

“When there is no actual controversy, the court has no discretion to decide the case.” *Cat Tech LLC v. TubeMaster, Inc.*, 528 F.3d 871, 883 (Fed. Cir. 2008). Here, there is no controversy as to Wi-Fi 6 patents that are owned by non-parties such as Huawei, Mitsubishi Electric, and Panasonic. *See* Dkt. 33 ¶ 33. HP does not allege that it has sought a license to any non-party Wi-Fi 6 patents, nor that any of the non-party patentees have breached their FRAND obligations. Nonetheless, HP asks the Court to set a licensing rate for these non-party patentees’ domestic and foreign patents. This fails as a matter of law.

There is also no actual controversy regarding patents not asserted against HP in these actions. The basis for HP’s counterclaims is that Wilus breached its FRAND obligations by bringing this patent infringement lawsuit instead of granting HP a license to the asserted patents on FRAND terms and conditions. Dkt. 33 ¶¶ 20–57. This alleged breach does not apply to patents not asserted here. Indeed, HP does not actually identify any other essential Wi-Fi 6 patents owned by Wilus, violating Rule 8’s requirement to provide fair notice of what the claims are. This Court thus lacks DJ jurisdiction over the non-party and unasserted patents, and Counterclaims 5 and 6 should be dismissed.²

² Even in the United Kingdom, where courts are willing to entertain efforts to set FRAND licensing rates that cover foreign patents, courts have declined to set rates for non-party patents simply because they were owned by members of the same patent pool. *See Tesla, Inc. v. Interdigital Patent Holdings, Inc.*, [2025] EWCA (Civ) 193, [222], [228], [231], [245] (Eng.). In *Tesla*, the UK Court of Appeal affirmed the lower court’s decision to dismiss a case filed by Tesla seeking a global FRAND rate determination of the patents in Avanci’s pool by also suing Interdigital (one of the patent owners) as a representative. The appellate court held that members of the “Avanci 5G Platform” patent pool had no contractual agreement with the SSO “to license their SEPs on a collective

3. Sisvel Is Not a Party to the Alleged Contract with the IEEE and Thus the Court Cannot Impose FRAND Obligations on Sisvel

As set forth in detail above, Sisvel does not own any of the “Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs” and is not a party to or otherwise bound by the alleged contract between Wilus and the relevant SSOs. Rather, HP’s counterclaims assert that Wilus is the only party who made FRAND licensing promises that are at issue. Accordingly, the Court cannot enter the requested determination that Sisvel has “not offered a license to the Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs on FRAND terms and conditions.” Sisvel was never obligated to do so in the first place. Nor can the Court impose any FRAND obligations on Sisvel much like in the recent UK *Tesla* decision. Counterclaim 6 thus fails to state a claim against Sisvel and should be dismissed.

4. Alternatively, the Court Should Exercise Its Discretion to Decline Declaratory Judgment Jurisdiction Over HP’s Claims—HP Merely Seeks and Advisory Opinion and Wilus/Sisvel Do Not Consent

Even assuming that the requirements for declaratory judgment relief are met, the Court should exercise its broad discretion to decline jurisdiction over HP’s DJ claims. “In deciding whether to entertain a declaratory judgment request, a court must determine whether resolving the case serves the objectives for which the Declaratory Judgment Act was created.” *Cat Tech*, 528 F.3d at 883. “If a district court, in the sound exercise of its judgment, determines after a complaint is filed that a declaratory judgment will serve no useful purpose, it cannot be incumbent upon that court to proceed to the merits before staying or dismissing the action.” *Wilton v. Seven Falls Co.*, 515 U.S. 277, 288 (1995).

basis with other SEP owners.” *Id.* Further, the pool administrator itself had “no authority to negotiate let alone agree [to] ‘FRAND terms’ on behalf of the owners for the collective licensing of their SEPs.” *Id.* [231]. Thus, there was “no contractual obligation that would give the English court jurisdiction to determine the ‘FRAND terms’ of a licence of the SEPs on the Avanci 5G platform, even if all of the SEP owners were joined or represented in the proceedings.” *Id.* Similarly here, HP has not pled the existence of any contractual obligation with a SSO for Wilus or Sisvel to license the Wi-Fi 6 patents to HP on a collective basis with other members of a patent pool.

The relief requested by HP would defeat the purpose of the Declaratory Judgment Act, as it would not resolve any actual dispute and would only create *more* uncertainty. If the Court (or jury) were to determine a FRAND rate for the Alleged Wi-Fi 6 SEPs, it would raise questions—and likely invite litigation—regarding applicability to foreign patents and non-party patents. *See Apple*, 2017 WL 3966944, at *12 (“[E]ven if this Court ultimately sets a worldwide FRAND rate for Qualcomm’s global portfolio, Apple’s patent claims for invalidity and exhaustion under foreign law as to foreign patents will remain unaddressed.”). And even if the Court were to limit the judgment to only Wilus’s U.S. patents, HP has not agreed to accept a license based on the Court-determined FRAND terms and waive claims regarding validity and infringement for any Wilus patents. Nor has HP conceded that any of the relevant patents are, in fact, essential to the Wi-Fi 6 standard. *See* Dkt. 33 ¶¶ 15–19 (alleging only that Wilus claims the patents are essential). Disputes would thus remain as to whether Wilus’s patents (particularly those not asserted in this case) are valid, whether HP’s products utilize/infringe such patents, and whether they are essential. As aptly explained by one court in dismissing similar FRAND counterclaims:

The Court is far from convinced that the trial that would be necessitated by the declaratory judgment would serve any useful purpose. First, even if the Court were to determine a FRAND rate, I am unclear as to how I could actually enforce such a ruling. While both Nokia, and to a greater extent ZTE, have indicated their “willingness” to accept a license, there has been no sworn affidavit by either company that they would sign a license. Companies can change or sell their product lines. They can enter and withdraw from markets. They can appeal district court decisions, and initiate other litigation, which would either delay or derail a final judgment. All the Court’s determination of a FRAND rate would accomplish would be to give a data point from which the parties could continue negotiations. Second, the determination of a FRAND rate would not lead directly to a patent license as multiple other license issues would still need to be negotiated between the parties, any one of which could become a sticking point. For example, license agreements often include agreements as to warranties, indemnification, cross-licensing, trademarks and attribution, insurance, etc. Therefore, it is evident to the Court that even if the Court were able to determine the FRAND rate in an efficient manner, which the Court finds highly dubious considering that there are 500 or so possibly relevant patents, the Court’s FRAND finding would have little utility and serve little to no useful purpose.

The Court also finds that the Defendants' declaratory judgment actions seeking the Court to determine whether InterDigital has offered a FRAND rate, would also serve little to no useful purpose. First, the Court would have to determine an appropriate FRAND rate in order to determine whether a FRAND offer had been made, which as discussed above, would not serve any useful purpose. Second, the Court would need to determine whether such offer was actually made. Similar to the determination of the FRAND rate itself, the only purpose of this would be to alter the current negotiating power between the parties. Third, any impact that this determination would have on the patents-in-suit is encompassed within the multitude of affirmative defenses that both Nokia and ZTE assert.

InterDigital Commc'ns, Inc. v. ZTE Corp., No. 1:13-CV-00009-RGA, 2014 WL 2206218, at *3 (D. Del. May 28, 2014); *see also Zenith Elecs., LLC, v. Sceptre, Inc.*, No. LA CV14-05150 JAK (AJWx), 2015 WL 12830689, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 5, 2015) ("any determination of a FRAND rate, even as to only the four patents-in-suit, could be entirely academic" where defendant did not admit that it practices the patents-in-suit or that they are in fact essential to the ATSC Standard).

U.S. courts agree that the task of setting a FRAND rate should not be undertaken unless *all* relevant parties consent to the rate setting and also agree to actually enter a license at the rate set by the court. *See, e.g., Interdigital*, 2014 WL 2206218, at *3; *Ericsson Inc. v. D-Link Sys., Inc.*, No. 6:10-CV-473, 2013 WL 4046225, at *21 (E.D. Tex. Aug. 6, 2013), *rev'd in part*, 773 F.3d 1201 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (absent agreement to "actually pay the RAND rate determined by the Court," determining an appropriate RAND royalty would "amount[] to nothing more than an advisory opinion as to Ericsson's initial RAND license offer"); *Apple Inc. v. Motorola Mobility, Inc.*, No. 11-CV-178-BBC, 2012 WL 7989412, at *3 (W.D. Wis. Nov. 8, 2012) (denying claim for declaratory judgment due to "uncertainty over the propriety of engaging in the complex task of determining a FRAND rate if the end result would not resolve the parties' disputes over licensing and infringement"); *Ericsson Inc. v. Apple Inc.*, No. 2:21-cv-00376-JRG, Dkt. 89 at 4-5 (E.D. Tex. May 2, 2022) (denying Ericsson's request for an Order requiring Apple to confirm its intention that it will "perform under the terms of Ericsson's offer if it is found to be FRAND," and explaining that "as in any contractual negotiation, the offeror's offer only becomes binding on the offeree

when it is accepted by the offeree,” and that even if the offer was found to be FRAND, Apple was free to accept it or reject it).³ Here, counterclaim defendants Wilus and Sisvel do not consent to a U.S. court setting a global FRAND rate either for the hundreds of Wilus-owned patents or the more than a thousand patents within Sisvel’s Wi-Fi 6 pool. Furthermore, neither HP nor any of the patents owners—not Wilus and certainly not the non-party members of the Sisvel Wi-Fi 6 pool—have agreed to be bound by a global rate setting by this Court and ultimately enter into a license. The requested declaratory judgment would thus serve “no useful purpose,” and the Court should decline jurisdiction over these counterclaims rather than provide an advisory opinion.

V. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, HP’s Counterclaims 1–6 should be dismissed.

³ See also *Tesla*, [2025] EWCA (Civ) 193, [133], [139] (finding on the basis of testimony from a U.S. legal scholar that “so far, no US court has ever determined what terms for a global license under a portfolio of SEPs are FRAND without the consent of both parties”).

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that all counsel of record who are deemed to have consented to electronic service are being served this 17th day of March, with a copy of this document via the Court's CM/ECF system per Local Rule CV-5(a)(3). Any other counsel of record will be served by electronic mail on this same date.

/s/ Reza Mirzaie